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WNPC Chief Gathers News Tips

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By RUTH DEAN

Star Staff Writer

Miss Miriam Ottenberg, who has won reknown for her investigative reporting, was offered some new challenges last night by some of the Nation's leading sleuths.

All of them showed up to pay tribute to The Star's Pulitzer Prize-winning crime reporter and to see Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy inaugurate her as the new president of the Women's National Press Club at a reception in the new International Club.

Senator John McClellan, chairman of the Senate's Government Operations Committee, offered Miss Ottenberg "a deal" if she would lay off the Senate's latest move to investigate unlawful actions in the Senate. "We'll leave a very broad field for her, if she investigates any other branch of Government," he said.

With a grin he predicted, "I'm confident this committee will investigate just as little as it can and no more thoroughly than it has to."

Ex-CIA Chief's Word

Former CIA director Allen Dulles directed sleuth Miriam back on the trail again. "Don't miss any opportunities, especially this Senate one," he cautioned, recalling: "I once let a little bearded man slip through my fingers."

Secret Service Chief James Rowley suggested the current coin shortage could offer reporter Miriam a variety of investigative possibilities: vending machines, washing machines, coins in the fountains, bulging piggy banks,

old socks, under floor boards and old trees, and even "that area where our largest silver coins are disappearing — Las Vegas."

Mr. B. M. McKelway, editorial chairman and senior vice president of The Star, led off the program of tribute and good-natured ribbing of Miss Ottenberg whose newspaper career has centered on exposing organized crime and corruption.

Analyzing the Ottenberg modus operandi, Mr. McKelway said she was "more extreme than the extremists." As a case in point, he said, "she doesn't believe in instructing the atomic bomb to the NATO commanders, an of the military or even the President of the United States."

"The only one she would trust with the atomic bomb is the Attorney General — the present Attorney General — to use it in law enforcement, provided that he tip her — I mean tip her off exclusively or maybe vice versa, about when he would use it and against whom."

Mr. Kennedy responded to this loyal indorsement, saying he'd "be glad to stay on as Attorney General if she gives us all her information. I sometimes feel," he added bemusedly, "she is the secret head of the Department of Justice."

In a more serious vein, he paid tribute to Miss Ottenberg for her "contributions to justice and decency around the country, not only by her skill and ability in getting the truth, but by her great integrity."

"Justice is usually pictured

blindfolded," he concluded. "But The Evening Star has a small, slender woman who is not blindfolded. For her the height is never won; she always strives for excellence."

Secretary of State and Mrs. Dean Rusk, Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon, Supreme Court Associate Justice and Mrs. Potter Stewart, ambassadors and top officials of The Star, as well as the new president's mother, Mrs. Louis Ottenberg, were among the guests who witnessed the star-studded program and laughed at such program highlights as the song "Inaugural Intrigue," sung by United Press International reporter Helen Thomas, to the tune of "Mack the Knife."

Message From First Lady

A program surprise was a telegram to the new president which read: "Top secret information discloses that you have been elected president of the Women's National Press Club. It is no secret that I am proud of you and your colleagues in the press. Best wishes for a wonderful year." It was signed Lady Bird Johnson.

New officers sworn in with Miss Ottenberg at the cocktail buffet were Mary Gallagher of the Cincinnati Inquirer, first vice president; Jeanette Rudellat of USIA, second vice president; Charlotte G. Moulton of UPI, third vice president; Urcel Daniel of the Bureau of National Affairs, secretary; and Eileen Shanley of The Star, treasurer.

Two new board members also were sworn in—Ann

Ewing of Science Service and Isabelle Shelton of The Star. Outgoing president Elsie Carper of the Washington Post will serve for another year on the board.

Chief of Protocol and Mrs. Angier Biddle Duke, Pakistan Ambassador and Begum Ahmed, White House Press Secretary George Reedy, and Presidential Assistant Malcolm Kiddluff were also among those attending the inaugural party.

Officials of The Star who were present included the Chairman of the Board and Mrs. Samuel H. Kauffmann, Mr. Crosby N. Boyd, president of The Star, and Mrs. Boyd; the Editor of The Star and Mrs. Newbold Noyes, jr., and Mr. and Mrs. McKelway.

Also attending were Mr. John W. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Kauffmann, Mr. Godfrey W. Kauffmann, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Kauffmann II, Mr. Willmott H. Lewis, jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Crosby Noyes.